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SUBJECT: USDP EDELMAN'S OCTOBER 15 MEETINGS IN LONDON

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Richard LeBaron for reasons 1.4 b and d

1. (S/NF) Summary. The UK is pessimistic about Pakistan, especially in light of President Zardari's poor leadership and the bad economy, altho
2. (SBU) USDP Edelman and Major General Allardice met with UK officials in London October 15 on a broad range of issues including Pakistan, Af
Bleak Situation in Pakistan -- But a Few Glimmers

3. (S/NF) Although UK interlocutors were generally pessimistic about Pakistan's prospects, including the government's ability to manage the fi
4. (S/NF) Ricketts characterized Zardari as having "not much sense of how to govern a country...I fear he talks and talks but not much happens
5. (S/NF) McDonald acknowledged U.S. concerns about former Premier Nawaz Sharif, including ties to Islamists, but asserted that "he's indicate
6. (S/NF) Stirrup agreed that "clear intelligence" has demonstrated that U.S. Predator drone strikes in Waziristan have had an impact on terr
7. (S/NF) Stirrup asserted that General Ahmed Pasha's recent appointment as head of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), the army spy agency
Afghanistan: Getting the Message Right

Q (C/NF) Several interlocutors expressed concern that rising casualties in Afghanistan could result in waning public support in allied countrie
9. (C/NF) "Security is our top concern, but we need political progress," in Afghanistan, Stirrup emphasized. Ricketts asserted that "we're hol
10. (S/NF) Day stated that HMG continues to feel "deep frustration" with Karzai, wryly adding that "I remind people that we -- the internatio
Iran: Bigger Carrot, Bigger Stick?

11. (S/NF) All UK interlocutors agreed that fiscal pressure against Iran has had an impact on the regime and that the international community
Iraq SOFA: UK Looks to U.S. for Help

12. (C/NF) McDonald stressed that the UK could not have an "orderly transition" of its forces in Iraq without a SOFA to provide a legal framew
Avoiding a "Wretched Row" over MAP

13. (C/NF) McDonald stated that HMG rejects the view of "some partners who want to get back to business as usual with Russia." He continued th
France: EU Presidency -- and NATO

14. (C/NF) Ricketts stated that HMG has been "pleasantly surprised" by the pragmatism of France's EU Presidency. Day remarked that the current
The New DefMin...

15. (S/NF) Stirrup offered a preliminary assessment of new Defense Minister John Hutton, who replaced former DefMin Des Browne in the October

16. (U) USDP Edelman cleared this message.
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